

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kranz, et al.

: Group Art Unit: 1636

Serial No.: 09/731,242

: Examiner: Sandals, W.O.

Confirmation No.: 8588

Filed: December 6, 2000

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Further to the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 31, 2001, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the additional references, copies enclosed, which may qualify as prior art. For the Examiner's convenience, the references are listed on the attached Patent Trademark Office Form-1449.

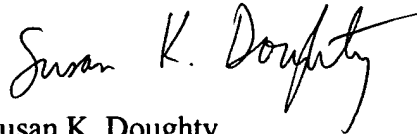
The references and information provided herewith are cited in a spirit of forthrightness and cooperation to enable Applicants to obtain that measure of protection for the invention for which there is entitlement. However, no representation is made that the listed art actually qualifies as prior art under the patent stature and the mere use of PTO-1449 is not an admission that all listed references are prior art. No representation is made that Applicants know of the best art.

The Examiner is also referred to references cited in the priority application, 09/009,388, filed January 20, 1998. In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.97, the Examiner is referred to the files of that application for the prior art of record. For the Examiner's convenience, a 1449 Form listing the references cited in the 09/009,388 application is attached. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d), copies of the references cited in the 09/009,388 application are not enclosed. Copies of the references will be provided upon request.

References listed in the PTO Form 1449 submitted herewith which do not specify the month of publication have a year of publication sufficiently earlier than the effective US filing date and any foreign priority date so that the particular month of publication is not in issue.

It is believed that this submission does not require the payment of any fees. If this is incorrect, however, please charge any requisite fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1969.

Respectfully submitted,



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